

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 129791

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 4382 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO USUN,
ALL EC CAPITALS, TUNIS, CAIRO, TOKYO, OTTAWA, CANBERRA,
MELBOURNE, WELLINGTON, OSLO, STOCKHOLM, HELSINKI 03 JUN 77

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 4382

USEEC

IO FOR ASST. SEC. MAYNES

PASS LABOR FOR SECRETARY MARCHAL AND ILAB

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO, PLAB

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE (ILC) OFF TO SLOW START

1. SUMMARY: STAND OFF BETWEEN ARAB-LED AFRICANS AND EUROPEANS
HAS DEADLOCKED INFORMAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN REGIONAL GROUPS
TO FILL ILC COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIPS ON CONSENSUS BASIS. AS
RESULT, BY EVENING OF JUNE 2, ONLY SELECTION COMMITTEE HAD MET.

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INFORMAL NEGOTIATIONS LED BY ILC PRESIDENT AMEDUME WILL
CONTINUE MORNING OF JUNE 3. HOWEVER, POSSIBILITY EXISTS OF
UNPRECEDENTED SITUATION WHERE EACH COMMITTEE WOULD VOTE TO
ELECT ITS CHAIRMAN. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REPEAT THIS CABLE
TO APPROPRIATE AFRICAN POSTS. END SUMMARY.

2. USUAL PROCEDURE AT ILC IS TO FILL "HONORS POSTS" (IE:

ILC OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES) BY INFORMAL NEGOTIATION. SO FAR, ONLY CONFERENCE OFFICERS AND SELECTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN HAVE BEEN DECIDED.

3. BY JUNE 1 NOON, INFORMAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ILC PRESIDENT AMEDUME AND REPRESENTATIVES OF REGIONAL GROUPS HAD LED TO AGREEMENT ON ALL BUT TWO COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN (REGIONAL BREAKDOWN AS ASIA 4, LATIN AMERICA 3, NORTH AMERICA 1, EASTERN EUROPE 2, AFRICA -, AND WESTERN EUROPE 1). VACANT COMMITTEES WERE RESOLUTIONS AND FINANCE. DEADLOCK OCCURRED BECAUSE AFRICAN GROUP (LED BY TUNISIAN LAGMIN ENNACEUR, WHO IS ALSO ARAB SPOKESMAN) INSISTED ON CHERIF OF TUNISI FOR RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE AND EUROPEANS HAD NOMINATED VELDKAMP OF NETHERLANDS. NEGOTIATIONS WERE TO CONTINUE ON MORNING OF JUNE2, BUT ENNACEUR AND EUROPEANS HAD AGREED THAT IF AFRICANS COULD COME UP WITH ACCEPTABLE CANDIDATES FOR RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE, EUROPEANS WOULD BACK OFF AND TAKE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

4. HOWEVER, AT JUNE 2 MEETING, AFRICANS (STILL LED BY ARABS) INSISTED NOT ONLY ON CHERIF AS CHAIRMAN OF RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE BUT ADKED AS WELL FOR AFRICAN REPRESENTATIVES TO HEAD FINANCE AND STRUCTURE COMMITTEES (LATTER WAS TO HAVE BEEN FILLED BY AZIMI OF IRAN, WHO CHAIRED STRUCTURE WORKING PARTY MEETINGS IN GENEVA THIS YEAR AND LAST). THIS EVEN DEEPER STALEMATE INDUCED ILC PRESIDENT AND OFFICERS TO PROPOSE THAT ALL COMMITTEE MEETINGS BE POSTPONED FROM AFTERNOON JUNE 2 TO 11 A.M. JUNE 3, WHILE CONFIDENTIAL

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NEGOTIATIONS DESIGNED TO BREAK DEADLOCK CONTINUE MORNING JUNE 3.

5. AT WE MEETING EVENING JUNE 2 (INCLUDING HOROWITZ AND COOK OF AUSTRALIA), EUROPEANS DECIDED THEY WOULD MAKE NO FURTHER CONCESSIONS. AT LUNCHEON SAME DAY AF REPS (ZAMBIA, SIERRE LEONE, AND KANYA) TOLD HOROWITZ THEY WERE FURIOUS AT BEING USED BY ARABS. WHETHER THEIR FEELING TRANSLATES INTO ACTION AT JUNE 3 AF LABMIN CAUCUS, REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
SORENSEN

UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 06-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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